



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537
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www.cityofloveland.org

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 14, 2015 – 5:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Suite 200
500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes (September 9, 2015)

City Council Liaison Report – Hugh McKean

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report – Kerri Rollins/Hugh McKean

OLAB Agenda/Minutes online: http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm

Reports/Correspondence:

1. 3rd Quarter Financial Report (*attached*)
2. Open Lands Projects Report (*attached*)
3. Property Acquisition Updates (*verbal*)

Discussion/Action Items:

4. Ryan's Gulch Property Review (*handout at meeting*)
5. E. 1st Street Property Review (*handout at meeting*)

Executive Session (if necessary)

(24-6-402(4)(a) C.R.S.) For information or discussion of the purchase or acquisition of real property

Reminders:

Oct. 15 – PEEPs (Pre-School Environmental Education), 9:30 and 11 am at River's Edge
“Scare-crows and Crow-crows” <http://www.cityofloveland.org/index.aspx?page=225>

Oct. 16, 23 – Volunteer Trail-building at Mariana Butte Trail – C.A.T.S., 3-6pm
Sign up online: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b45aaad2fa02-cats>

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Special November Meeting: [November 18, 2015, 5:00-9:00 pm at Chilson Senior Center](#)

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2015
Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. Third St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Nathan Thompson, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Staff Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Michele Van Hare.

The public meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Public Comment: Mark DeGregorio, 1231 Riverview Dr. Loveland, former member of the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board and 7-year member of Legacy Land Trust Board of Directors, noted that a City-owned property on Rossum Drive in west Loveland is being proposed for high-density development, along with two adjacent parcels. The property falls within the West Loveland Priority Area in the Big T Recreation and Conservation Plan. Mr. DeGregorio believes that development is not appropriate and that conservation as open lands is appropriate to preserve the viewshed. City Council has approved the sale of the City-owned parcel, and the purchase is contingent on zoning being approved.

Approval of August 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

City Council Liaison Report. Marilyn Hilgenberg distributed a memo regarding Capital Expansion Fees (CEFs) and upcoming public open house meetings. The proposed CEFs were determined using plans-based calculations. OLAC members were encouraged to attend and voice concerns previously forwarded to City Council regarding the new calculation methods, including using existing fund balances, which have changed recently with over \$2M spent in Open Lands acquisitions.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on several items: 1) Like Loveland, Larimer County has also been busy with acquisitions recently; 2) Larimer County submitted a GOCO Inspire Initiative Grant with Ft Collins, Loveland and the Larimer County Boys and Girls Club, based on the Plug into Nature study, to get more kids outside and into nature; 3) Larimer County also submitted a GOCO Open Space grant this cycle; and 4) the Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) annual conference will be held September 14-16 in Snowmass.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Larimer County Partnership Request – Devil's Backbone Trailhead/Trail. The Devil's Backbone Management Plan 2014 update identified the need for trailhead and trail improvements to accommodate increasing public use of the site. The trailhead expansion will include 35 new parking spaces, webcams and interpretive signage. The trail expansion would include a new loop trail through

the Hidden Valley property, to help separate uses and relieve trail congestion. Construction is slated for 2016 with a total project cost of \$242,000. The county has requested \$5,000 from the Overland Mountain Bike Club and is requesting half of the remaining amount from Loveland Open Lands. Gale Bernhardt made a motion to recommend that Loveland partner with Larimer County for the requested amount of \$118,500. Darren Pape seconded the motion. Kerri explained that the Hidden Valley Trail will be multi-use allowing hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking. The Wild Loop Trail will be converted to foot traffic only. Jim Roode made an amendment to the motion that if Loveland is not already acknowledged on the signage at Devil's Backbone, signage will be added. Rick Brent seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Naming of Big Thompson River Greenway Properties. The public naming contest for four Big Thompson Greenway natural areas resulted in more than 130 names being submitted. The commission selected the following names based on those submissions:

- Oxbow Natural Area – 1135 Rossum Drive
- Cottonwood Run Natural Area – Recreation Trail natural areas between Wilson & Taft Ave.
- King's Crossing Natural Area – 990 S. Lincoln Ave.
- Old St. Louis Natural Area – 1010 S. St. Louis Ave.

Two recent acquisitions adjacent to River's Edge will be folded into the existing natural area for naming and management purposes. The recent Wenninger acquisition will be named through a public naming process once signage and fencing are installed to delineate city ownership.

Reports/Correspondence:

3. Open Lands Projects Report.

River's Edge Natural Area Grand Opening. The event is scheduled for Sept. 24 at 5 pm. Activities will include an opening ceremony, guided bird and plant walks, fishing demos and instruction, drawings, and children's activities. A volunteer group will help with site plantings, cleanup and final preparations during a Sept. 12 volunteer work day.

Quick-win Projects. Public access on five natural areas is being planned and designed, including soft-surface trail loops at all sites and small gravel parking areas at Old St. Louis and King's Crossing. All projects except Mariana Butte Trail will be bid together for construction. The Mariana Butte Trail is being built by a local volunteer trail-building group (C.A.T.S.) and a public volunteer work day is scheduled for Sept. 19. The trail is being formalized to be more sustainable and located further from private property. A future trail may be possible to connect to Oxbow Natural Area along the river.

Environmental Education/Volunteer Program. Volunteers will be in "uniform" (vests with Open Lands logo & name tags) for the River's Edge grand opening, to assist the public with wayfinding, environmental education, scavenger hunt, touch table, and recruiting. Trail Host volunteers have been patrolling River's Edge and reporting online for staff to access. The C.A.T.S. trail-building project is recruiting volunteers to help at Mariana Butte Trail. The Urban Wilderness Program for 4th & 5th graders will be held at Namaqua Park this fall and will be moved to River's Edge over the winter. A new 2nd grade program will be piloted at River's Edge this fall, using FOSS kits and focusing on plants. A middle school program is being developed to include map skills and orientation and will be piloted with a 7th grade PE class, with a focus on health and wellness in the outdoors. PEEPs preschool programs have grown to 80 attendees per month (two sessions on the third Thursday morning of each month).

4. Property Acquisition Updates. Brian reported on recent closings: the Wenninger property closed on Aug. 20, and the adjacent Black property closed on Aug. 31. The Swisher property on 1st Street closed on Sept. 1. The Fort Collins partnership project on CR 30 is scheduled to close on Sept. 30. City Council has approved the IGA for this partnership.

Executive Session:

Ross Livingston made a motion to suspend the regular session and convene Executive Session at 7:00 pm. The Executive Session ended at 8:00 pm and the regular session reconvened.

Commission Member Discussion Topics:

1. Rick Brent noted that the River's Edge trail to the school district building is in need of repair/resurfacing.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Financial Summary
Loveland Open Lands Fund
January 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015

2015 Total Budget

Beginning Cash for Open Lands 1/1/15 (Fund 202)	\$14,478,357	
Revenues:		
County Open Space Tax	\$ 1,721,196	\$1,800,000
Interest/Investment Income	\$ 92,018	\$ 144,820
Flood Recoveries	\$ 341	
Partnerships & Misc. Revenue	<u>\$ 14,025</u>	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,827,580	\$1,947,820
Expenses:		
Operating Expenditures to date	\$ 463,652	\$ 883,690
Personnel Services \$ 241,778		
Supplies \$ 6,869		
Purchased Services \$ 215,005		
Capital Expenditures*	\$ 3,627,733	\$5,677,079
Flood related clean-up, repairs \$ 510,628		
Oxbow Natural Area \$ 225,519		
Boedecker (west) \$ 240,158		
Wenninger \$1,970,936		
Black \$ 94,000		
County Road 30 w/ FC \$ 400,000		
Total	<u>\$ 4,091,385</u>	<u>\$6,560,769</u>
Ending Cash Balance Open Lands Fund 202 (9/30/15)	\$12,214,552	

Breakdown of CASH Balance in Open Lands Fund 202 of 9/30/15 [Unaudited Figure]

Fund 202 - cash balance for Unappropriated Acquisitions, Development and OL Operations	\$ 2,323,927
Fund 202 - funds earmarked for 2015 & 2016 OL Acquisitions, Flood, Dev & Ops	\$ 6,860,000*
Fund 202 - cash balance for Maintenance Reserve	\$ 3,000,000
Fund 202 - cash balance for Meadowbrook Ridge	<u>\$ 30,625</u>
Total	\$12,214,552

*Loveland West Acquisition/Development, Quick Win Projects, River's Edge Trail Connections, Devil's Backbone Partnership, Ryan's Gulch Separator, East Big Thompson and West Ridgeline Trail.

Financial Summary
Open Lands Capital Expansion Fund
January 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015

2015 Total Budget

Beginning Cash for OL Capital Expansion Fund 1/1/15 (Fund 263)	\$1,960,460	
Revenues:		
Fee from Residential Building Permits	\$ 397,280	\$ 283,180
Interest/Investment Income	<u>\$ 11,828</u>	<u>\$ 37,670</u>
Total	<u>\$ 409,108</u>	<u>\$ 320,850</u>
Expenses:		
CC Economic Incentive Loan	\$ 250,000	
Capital	<u>\$ 426,000</u>	
Mineral \$ 115,000		
Swisher \$ 228,730		
Total	<u>\$ 343,730</u>	<u>\$ 676,000</u>
Ending Cash Balance Open Lands CEF (9/30/15)	<u>\$2,025,838</u>	<u>\$1,595,331</u>



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **2**

MEETING DATE: October 14, 2015

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

River's Edge Natural Area. The Grand Re-Opening was a great success with attendance by over 160 members of the public, City Council, OLAC, staff, and volunteers. Fishing was popular and members of the Loveland Fishing Club and Colorado Parks & Wildlife assisted numerous first-time fishermen. Volunteers led guided bird and plant walks and offered a “touch table” with antlers, pelts, and skulls. River’s Edge is being used regularly by the public for fishing, walking, jogging, and has been very well-received. Maintenance staff monitors the site daily and addresses concerns such as social trails and vandalism. Volunteer trail hosts also monitor use and educate the public about rules and regulations. New sign kiosks will be installed this month. Planning for the Mineral Addition property is underway, including a trail connection from Carlisle and Taft and a pedestrian bridge over Ryan’s Gulch.

Quick-Win Projects. The contract for four quick-win projects has been awarded, with construction scheduled to begin this month at the two eastern-most sites – Old St. Louis and King’s Crossing Natural Areas. These two sites will each have a small gravel parking area and soft-surface trails. Projects at the western sites include a loop trail at Oxbow Natural Area and flood repairs at Morey Wildlife Reserve. Trail reconstruction at Morey will take place over the winter, timed in coordination with flood repairs at Mariana Butte Golf Course. The fifth project, the Mariana Butte Trail, is being constructed in partnership with the local volunteer trail-building group Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (C.A.T.S.). Volunteer work days are scheduled on Fridays, Oct. 16 and 23 from 2-6 pm and the public is welcome to help out. Signage will be included at each natural area to provide site identification, a map and site rules and regulations.

High Plains Environmental Center. The High Plains Open Space Agreement was established in 2006 to set aside funds generated by Millenium development for the purposes of open space acquisition and conservation easements. The High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC) has approached the City to request a change to the agreement that would allow the Open Space funds to be used for purposes other than open space acquisition or conservation easements. In addition, HPEC would like to request use of the existing fund balance for a new

building to house an environmental education center and offices. HPEC would like to discuss partnership opportunities with the city as well, possibly including environmental education programming, environmental services, or as a source of local native plant material. An OLAC meeting is tentatively planned for early 2016 at the current High Plains Environmental Center.

GOCO Open Space Site Tour. Staff hosted a site tour of the 78-acre west Loveland property near Morey Wildlife Reserve for GOCO staff and board members on Oct. 2. GOCO staff indicated that they received \$4.3M in requests for the \$5M open space cycle. Loveland requested \$500,000 for this acquisition. GOCO appreciated the property for its location, adjacency to existing open space, potential trails and connections, inclusion in existing plans, agricultural use and water, views, and catalyst for additional conservation opportunities in the river corridor. The GOCO Open Space Committee will meet on Nov. 17 to make recommendations to the Board, who will announce final decisions at their meeting on Dec. 12.

GOCO Inspire Grant. GOCO recommended the Larimer County Inspire application for a Level 2 planning grant, which would give the county coalition 18 months (rather than 10) to diversify to include environmental education and recreation program providers, public health organizations and community-based organizations; to mobilize the community and schools around the Inspire vision; and to establish a community-driven implementation plan. Larimer County plans to accept the grant for \$50,000 (rather than \$72,750 requested) and will submit a revised budget. The coalition would also need to apply for implementation funding through future GOCO funding cycles.

Guided Bird Walks on Natural Areas. A volunteer-led guided bird walk was held on Oct. 3, starting at Mehaffey Park and following the Recreation Trail and Louden Ditch Trail through Meadowbrook Natural Area. A total of 19 species were recorded, including a great-horned owl which was the highlight of the walk. A few guided bird walks may be offered this winter to look for and identify waterfowl at River's Edge or Meadowbrook ponds, and monthly bird walks will be planned beginning in the spring.